

## Bi-Weekly Update from County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, 8/30/16:

*County Offices will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2016, for the Labor Day holiday.*



### Road Department Updates

- **Job Openings:** The County's Road Department is currently seeking a Construction Inspector and Project Engineer to assist with engineering activities including planning, specification development, design and management, and inspection. Job descriptions for these full-time positions, and an online application, can be found on the County's website at [www.calhouncountymi.gov](http://www.calhouncountymi.gov), under "Apply for a Job" from our Quicklinks drop down menu.
- **Ongoing Road Maintenance and Construction:** The County Road Department hosted its regular monthly meeting for township supervisors on August 25, and saw record attendance with 14 of our 19 townships represented. Road Department Management reported that current and upcoming maintenance operations include a county-wide second application of brine on gravel roads, roadside mowing, and culvert repair and replacement. The County is contracting paver patching this year in addition to the pothole patching that included several contractors. The Road Department indicates that paving on the East side of the County is now complete, and that motorists on the West side should expect to see paving to begin soon by Reith Riley. The County Board is expected to approve MDOT contracts for the state-funded resurfacing of 30 Mile Road in Albion Township, near the Brembo plant and its new on-site foundry. The Road Department is working hard to expedite the contract awarding process to facilitate completion of this project yet this construction season.
- **Federal Aid Road and Bridge Projects:** Engineering Director Angie Kline reported that the V Drive South bridge project is nearing completion; and that the Bellevue Road resurfacing project will be paved within the next couple of weeks. She added that the County Road Department is continuing to partner with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Tribe, noting that there will be a contract submitted to the County Board soon for road improvements to 3 Mile Rd. Work continues on the Raymond Road bridge in Emmett Township, with latest complications including the need for asbestos abatement and plans to address sediment containing sheen that is being tested to determine whether it is related to the 2010 Enbridge oil spill.

- ***Township Road Funding Ballot Initiatives:*** The Road Department has provided road improvement plans to Emmett, Leroy, Newton and Homer Townships so that the townships have more comprehensive information with which to make funding decisions and plans. Both Emmett and Leroy townships are planning to ask voters in November to approve road millages to implement fixes on all local roads over the next few years.

***Consideration of New Asphalt Plant:*** Managing Director Christopher Bolt, who also oversees the Jackson County Department of Transportation, is working on feasibility and financial plans for a possible collaboration to construct a new asphalt plant that would enhance both Jackson and Calhoun counties' capacities and efficiencies when it comes to our ever-growing road improvement projects. Mr. Bolt's preliminary analysis concludes that a new county-owned plant would fill geographic gaps that currently exist within both counties, and allow both road departments to get asphalt earlier in the spring, before the commercial asphalt plants open. Cost savings and customized quality improvements to the asphalt mixes are key goals for continuing to discuss this potential project. The County Board of Commissioners has not yet deliberated over this matter, as we are awaiting more solid financial information to help with deciding what level of participation in a new asphalt plant makes most sense for our County Road Department.

#### **Substance Abuse Services Funding Approval**

Approval of the County's Public Act 2 (PA2) Alcohol Tax Budget is slated for Board of Commissioners approval on Thursday, September 1. PA2 is a state statute that requires counties to forward 50% of all liquor taxes collected within the county to regional coordinating entities, who then contract with substance use disorder prevention and treatment agencies to provide the required services. Calhoun County's PA2 budget for 2017 will provide just over \$450,000 toward programs to help those with substance abuse disorders. County-operated programs to be partially funded with PA2 dollars include the 37th Circuit Drug Treatment Court, the 10th District Sobriety Court and Veterans' Court, and treatment services in the County's jail and juvenile home. Summit Pointe and The Haven of Rest Ministries Life Recovery Programs are also included within next year's PA2 budget. All Calhoun County substance abuse prevention services are now funded with state block grant allocations, due to changes in funding availability. On August 29 our regional entity, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) convened its Substance Use Disorder Policy Board to hear numerous testimonies from participants and graduates of many of these programs, and to approve the Fiscal Year 2017 PA2 budgets for all eight counties represented within our designated region. Calhoun County's representatives include Commissioners Jim Haadsma and Carla Reynolds. As county administrator/controller, I also attended the Policy Board meeting and have provided input to SWMBH in developing the PA2 budget recommendation.

#### **FLRSB Considers 56 Grant Applications**

The FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board met on August 22 to consider 56 applications for this year's "Tier IV Discretionary Grant" awards. The applications from

local governments totaled more than \$1.3 million in requests, ranging from \$700 to \$218,000 and covering projects in the areas of public safety, education, social services and multi-governmental collaboration. The FLRSB set aside for these grant awards \$200,000 in remaining discretionary funds after this year's disbursement of most of the \$5.3 million received from the NHBP Tribe under their Compact's requirement to forward a 2% share of FireKeepers Casino's "Net Win." At the August 22 meeting, presided over by FLRSB Chair Jack Reed, there were the required unanimous votes to tentatively separate the applications into lists of those proceeding for further consideration and funding level determination, and those that will not move forward for funding. County Administration will communicate the results to all applicants soon. The Board also approved a proposal from the Upjohn Institute to create an updated economic impact study for the Casino, and to begin discussions with the Tribal government to jointly develop a strategy to carry out the study. The next meeting of the FLRSB is expected to be scheduled for some time in September, and will include finalization of the Discretionary grant awards.

#### **County Hospital Finance Authority to Facilitate Oaklawn Project**

The Calhoun County Hospital Finance Authority (CCHFA) met on August 26 for its annual organizational meeting, and to approve resolutions relating to Oaklawn Hospital's proposed 2016 issuance of bonds to refinance existing debt and to implement various new capital projects. The Authority elected County Administrator Kelli Scott as Chairperson, Michele Johnson, the County's Finance Director, as Treasurer, and John Byrd II, Deputy Manager of the Constituent Relations for the State of Michigan, as Secretary. Next steps for Oaklawn's planned financing project, for an amount not to exceed \$87,000,000, include a required public hearing by the County Board of Commissioners, to take place on September 15. Calhoun County's Hospital Finance Authority was created in 2005 as allowed by state statute to provide a method for nonprofit, private hospitals to provide facilities and services for health care delivery, through nontaxable financing that the Authority can issue on the hospitals' behalf. The bonds issued by the CCHFA will be paid solely from funds available to Oaklawn Hospital, and do not impact the County's debt limit, risk or credit rating, nor obligate the taxpayers of Calhoun County for the repayment of the debt.